

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of processing a developer, including ferromagnetic toner and hard magnetic carriers, for developing an electrostatic image, comprising:  
delaying the printing process; and  
exercising in a pre-imaging blending cycle of sufficient energy to affect a toner-carrier magnetic attraction set up in a fully developed, set developer with a magnetic brush and a blender prior to using said developer for developing said electrostatic image.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of processing a developer of claim 1, further  
heating the set developer.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of processing a developer of claim 2, wherein said developer is heated to a normal operating temperature.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method of processing a developer of claim 1, further  
adding ~~an~~ a relatively small amount of ferromagnetic toner to the set developer.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of processing a developer of claim 4, wherein the added amount of ferromagnetic toner is on the order of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight of said developer mass.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of processing a developer of claim 4, wherein the added amount of ferromagnetic toner is on the order of 0.5% by weight of said developer mass.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of processing a developer of claim 4, wherein said adding said amount of ferromagnetic toner takes place before said exercising of said set developer.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of processing a developer of claim 4, wherein said adding said amount of ferromagnetic toner takes place during said exercising of said set developer.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method of processing a developer, including ferromagnetic toner and hard magnetic carriers, for developing an electrostatic image, comprising:

exercising a set developer with a magnetic brush and a blender prior to using said developer for developing said electrostatic image, while removing developer from a toning shell for transporting developer for developing said electrostatic image.

10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Cancelled)**

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method of processing a developer, including ferromagnetic toner and hard magnetic carriers, for developing an electrostatic image, comprising:

heating a set developer, adding ~~an~~ a relatively small amount of ferromagnetic toner to said set developer, and exercising said set developer with a magnetic brush and a blender prior to using said developer for developing said electrostatic image, while removing developer from a toning shell for transporting developer for developing said electrostatic image.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method of processing a developer of claim 12, wherein said developer is heated to a normal operating temperature.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method of processing a developer of claim 12, wherein said added amount of ferromagnetic toner is on the order of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight of said developer mass.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method of processing a developer of claim 12, wherein said added amount of ferromagnetic toner is on the order of 0.5%.

16. **(Cancelled)**

17. **(Cancelled)**

18. **(Cancelled)**

19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Cancelled)**

21. (New) A method of processing a developer, including ferromagnetic toner and hard magnetic carriers, comprising:  
exercising a fully developed, set developer in a pre-imaging blending cycle with a magnetic brush and a blender while simultaneously heating the developer.

22. (New) The method of processing a developer of claim 21, wherein said developer is heated to a normal operating temperature.

23. (New) The method of processing a developer of claim 21, further adding a relatively small amount of ferromagnetic toner to the developer.

24. (New) The method of processing a developer of claim 23, wherein the added amount of ferromagnetic toner is on the order of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight of said developer mass.

25. (New) The method of processing a developer of claim 23, wherein the added amount of ferromagnetic toner is on the order of 0.5% by weight of said developer mass.

26. (New) The method of processing a developer of claim 23, wherein said adding said amount of ferromagnetic toner takes place before said exercising of said set developer.

27. (New) The method of processing a developer of claim 23, wherein said adding said amount of ferromagnetic toner takes place during said exercising of said set developer.